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27 March 2001

Dockets Management Branch (HFA 305)
U.S. Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fisher's Lane, rm. 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

RE: Docket No. OON-1396, and OOD-1598

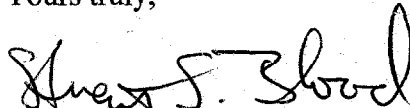
Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing to register my strenuous opposition to the FDA's proposed new rules on genetically engineered (GE) foods. I find the rules to be deficient in two respects:

- (1) The "voluntary labeling" policy denies consumers a basic right to know what is in their food. I will always opt to avoid food with GE components for reasons of food safety, as well as environmental considerations. I find it totally unacceptable for a corporation or a government agency to deny me the information I need to make that choice.' It is my understanding that not a single producer of GE food has agreed to label their products.
- (2) The new rules fail to require testing to demonstrate that consumer safety is protected. In addition, they require no review of potential environmental risks posed by the production of any given GE food. I am especially alarmed by the potential for irreparable damage to the environment.

Your proposed rules ignore serious concerns, and appear to be designed for the profit of industry at the expense of public health and the environment. As the overwhelming response to the early drafts of the organic standards has demonstrated, consumers demand full and honest information regarding the sources of their food. I hope you will take this clear predominance of opinion into account and make appropriate changes to your rules regarding GE foods.

Yours truly,



Stuart S. Blood

OON 1396

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